GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3868
ANSWERED ON:08.04.2003
AIR SURVEY FOR MINERAL EXPLORATION
A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the air survey work has been expedited to boost the exploration and extraction of minerals in the country especially in Karnataka and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the outcome of the each survey year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether the exploration work of minerals has been assigned to some foreign companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to award the survey work to Indian Companies ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS)

(a) Yes, Sir. Airborne Geophysical Surveys in the country are carried out as an aid to mineral exploration and related geological studies. To boost the exploration and subsequent extraction of minerals, reconnaissance permits(RP)/prospecting licences(PL) over large areas have been granted in various parts of the country including Karnataka and Maharashtra. Statewise details of Reconnaissance Permits/Prospecting Licences over large areas in different States is given in Annexure-I

(b) During the year 2000-01, M/s. De Beers carried out aerial survey over an area of 5001 sq.km. and identified 451 anomalies in Karnataka and M/s.Geomysore carried out aerial survey over an area of 3482 sq.km. and identified 5 anomalies in Maharashtra State. No significant ore bodies have been established.

(c) Yes, Sir, Exploration work of minerals has been assigned to some of the subsidiaries of the foreign companies registered in India under the Companies Act.

(d) M/s.Metmin Finance & Holding Co.Ltd., M/s.BHP Minerals(India) Pvt.Ltd., M/s.Inglewood Minerals(P) Ltd., M/s.WSIL Minera Sands India Pvt.Ltd., M/s.Geomysore Services India Pvt.Ltd.,M/s.Phelps Dodge Exploration India Pvt.Ltd., M/s.De Beers Ind Surveys Pvt.Ltd., M/s.De Beers India Prospecting Pvt.Ltd., M/s.Diamond Prospecting Pvt.Ltd., M/s.De Beers India Minerals Pvt.Lt M/s. Meridian Minerals India Pvt. Ltd. and M/s.CRA Exploration(India) Pvt.Ltd. have been granted RPs/PLs. In consonance with th policy of opening up of the mineral sector and subsequent speedy exploration of minerals in the country,

(e) RP/PL have also been awarded for aerial survey to Indian companies namely National Mineral Development Corporation, Hindustan Zinc Ltd. and Hutti Gold Mines Ltd.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3868 asked by S/Shri Ramsheth Thakur, A. Venkatesh Naik and Ashok N. Mohol regarding air survey for mineral exploration for answer on 8.4.03.

STATEWISE DETAILS OF PROSPECTING LICENCES (OVER LARGE AREAS)/RECONNAISSANCE PE APPROVED/GRANTED (AS ON 1.1.2003)

States	Total No. Of PL/RL	Area in Sq.Kms.	Districts
Andhra Pradesh	31	46395.00	Anantapur, Chittoor, Cuddapah, Kurnool, Prakasam, Mahabubnagar and Nellore
Orissa	6	9741.06	Kalahandi, Bolangir, Nawarangpur, Nuapada
Jharkhand	2	4341.68	Singbhum (East and West)
Gujarat	2	206.25	Palanpur/Banaskantha
Haryana	4	2490.00	Bhiwani, Mohindergarh and Tohtak
Karnataka	36	44255.87	Bellary, Chitradurga, Chamrajnagar, Davangere, Gadag, Gulbarga, Haveri, Kolar, Raichur, Tumkur and Shimoga.
Chattisgarh	16	29286.25	Raipur

Maharashtra	1	3482.00	Bhandara, Gadchiroli and Nagpur
Madhya Pardesh	7	11423.0	Narsinghpur, Hoshangabad, Chindwara, Chhatarpur, Sagar, Damoh, Tikamgarh
Rajasthan	67	87457.49	Alwar, Ajmer, Banswara, Bharatpur, Bhilwara, Bundi, Chittorgarh, Churu, Dausa, Dungarpur, Haipur, Jhunjhunu, Nagaur, Pali, Rajsamand, Sawai-Madhopur, Sikar, Sirohi, Tonk & Udaipur
Uttar Pradesh	2	1166.16	Lalitpur, Sonebhadra & Jhansi

Grand Total: #174 #240244.76

Total area approved till date and includes the area of P.L./R.P. which have been surrendered and revoked, the details of which is given below.

Total No. of licences surrendered after completing prospecting operations = 16
No. of licences revoked = 7
No. of licences terminated = 1
Total No. R.Ps operating as on date = 150 Area :204137.51 sq.km.